

**Municipal Council Workshop
January 22, 2008
Town Hall Auditorium
7:00 p.m.**

President Benson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Mary Chatigny, Stephen Dunford, Anne Ferguson, Robert Gilday, Robert Lavoie, Joseph McMilleon, Allen Neale, Jonathan Sherwood and Roger Benson.

President Benson explained this was an informal workshop to discuss the Council rules and procedures. He hopes the council can come to a general consensus on a set of rules and committees that everyone would be comfortable with. After discussion he will appoint a couple of councilors to write the changes and submit the changes for a late file for the January 29, 2008 meeting. He also stated he would like them to look at the 2004 Council Rules and Procedures which would take care of some of the issues he has with the current rules; specifically, committees, the agenda and having a second to a motion.

President Benson stated he would read each rule and number and if a councilor had a comment, change or wanted discussion they would stop and discuss it at that time.

Rules that were discussed for change were Rule 4, section 3, 5D, 5E, 5F, 6F, 6H, 6I, 8, 11, 11A, 11B, 11C1, 12, 15D and addendum L.

The make up of the Finance Committee was discussed to be a Committee of the Council and to set up a three member Financial Advisory Committee consisting of residents. It was discussed to have a Liaison on the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce as well as to set up a three council member Rules and Procedures Committee, a three council member Audit and Oversight Committee and to disband the public safety, education and library expansion committees.

Councilor Lavoie, Councilor Sherwood and Councilor Dunford volunteered to make up the committee to rewrite the rules with the changes and submit the changes for a late file for the January 29, 2008 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bonnijo Kitchin
Town Clerk**